

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 2-5 and 15 are pending. Claims 12-14 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claims 1 and 6-11 were previously cancelled. Claims 2 and 15 are amended. Claims 2 and 15 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. In response, claim 15 is rewritten in independent form, and independent claim 2 is amended to set forth a novel combination of elements not suggested by the references cited by the Examiner. Therefore, independent claims 2 and 15 are in condition for allowance.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Information Disclosure Citation

The Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 16, 2003, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has made a Restriction Requirement, and has withdrawn claims 12-14 and 16 from further consideration. By this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled non-elected claims 12-14 and 16. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to claims 12-14 and 16 at a later date if so desired.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 2, 4, and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baillievier (U.S. 4,268,573) in view of Yanagisawa (U.S. 5,772,809); and

claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baillievier in view of Miyazaki (JP 2000-045189).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As noted above, dependent claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of base claim 2.

In addition, while not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 2 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a pneumatic tire, including *inter alia*

said plurality of elements being twisted at a twist pitch PC of from 10 to 25 mm, each bunch including at least one waved filament and at least one unwaved filament,

the filaments in each said bunch being twisted at a twist pitch Pf of from 3 to 20 times

the twist pitch PC.

Support for the novel features of independent claim 2, as amended, can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0033] and [0035] of the specification. See also FIG. 3. As described in paragraph [0035], if the twist pitch P_f is less than 3 times or more than 20 times the final twist pitch P_c , the rubber penetration deteriorates.

By contrast, neither Baillievier nor Yanagisawa suggests the combination of features as set forth in independent claim 2 as amended herein.

The Examiner concedes that Baillievier fails to teach a cord twist pitch, but then points out that Yanagisawa (Table 1 – Invention 1-4) includes a cord twist pitch within the applicant's range. However, Yanagisawa fails to suggest the combination of

said plurality of elements being twisted at a twist pitch PC of from 10 to 25 mm, each bunch including at least one waved filament and at least one unwaved filament, and

the filaments in each said bunch being twisted at a twist pitch P_f of from 3 to 20 times the twist pitch PC, as set forth in independent claim 2, as amended herein.

The Examiner will note that claim 3 has been amended herein to depend from independent claim 15. Dependent claims 3-5 are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$1,020 is attached hereto.

Application No.: 10/619,628

Docket No.: 0229-0757P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Dated: JUL 19 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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